

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/02/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claim 20** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0065940), hereinafter referenced as Suzuki further in view of Sekizawa (U.S. Patent 6,604,212) further in view of Hattori et al. (United States Patent 6,570,667) hereinafter referenced as Hattori further in view of Kojima et al. (United States Patent 6,219,496) hereinafter referenced as Kojima.

3. **Regarding claim 20**, Suzuki discloses a device control method that controls a device connecting with a network, said device control method comprising the steps of:

4. activating a timer included in said printing apparatus (by means of a control unit 4) to measure elapse of a time period, as disclosed in [0069] and exhibited in figure 3;

5. communicating with another apparatus connecting with the network to provide a specified service, as disclosed in [0018];

6. acquiring an absolute time (global time) point from said another apparatus in the process of communication, as disclosed in [0070]-[0071]; and

7. setting the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying each time point, based on a measurement result of said timer (synchronizing the times and the base time point), as disclosed in [0070]-[0071].

However Suzuki does not disclose that the communication consists of a printing log, and a printing file. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification as taught by Sekizawa. In a similar field of endeavor Sekizawa discloses a system and method for monitoring the state of a plurality of machines connected via a computer network. In addition Sekizawa discloses that the communication consists of a printing log, and a printing file, As disclosed in column 21, lines 1-20. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification for the purpose of streamlining the process of monitoring each of the printing machines on a network, as disclosed in column 2, lines 54-67. However Suzuki and Sekizawa fail to explicitly disclose that the device is a printing apparatus. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention, as taught by Hattori. In a similar field of endeavor Hattori discloses an image processing

device. In addition Hattori discloses that the device, with the timer and another device which manages it, as disclosed in column 18, lines 50-55, column 28, lines 60-67 and exhibited in figures 1 and 2a. However Suzuki, Sekizawa, and Hattori do not disclose a device wherein the elapsed time is corrected with a correction value, wherein the recorded log is related to the elapsed time corrected with the correction value, and also correcting the correction value based on the time interval and a measurement result wherein the result is measured by the timer for the timer interval. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification ,as taught by Kojima. Kojima discloses a device wherein the elapsed time is corrected with a correction value, wherein the recorded log is related to the elapsed time corrected with the correction value, and also correcting the correction value based on the time interval and a measurement result wherein the result is measured by the timer for the timer interval, as disclosed in column 3, lines 1-31. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification for the purpose of improving the accuracy of the timer.

8. **Claim 1, 5-6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekizawa (U.S. Patent 6,604,212) further in view of Mallory et al. (United States Patent Publication 2002/0006136) hereinafter referenced as Mallory, further in view of Hattori et al. (United States Patent 6,570,667) hereinafter referenced as Hattori.

9. **Regarding claim 1**, Sekizawa discloses a system and method for monitoring the state of a plurality of machines connected via a computer network. In addition Sekizawa discloses a printing apparatus that is connected with a network, comprising:

10. a timer (monitor section 17) that measures elapse of a time period, as disclosed in column 21, lines 39-44 and exhibited in figure 3.

11. a network communication module (12) that communicates with another apparatus connecting with the network to provide a specified service, as disclosed in column 17, lines 19-28 and exhibited in figure 3.

12. However Sekizawa fails to explicitly disclose, a time acquisition module that acquires an absolute time point from said another apparatus in the process of communication; and

13. a base time setting module that sets the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying each time point at each time point being specified based on the elapsed time measured by the base time point.

14. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such a modification to the invention of Sekizawa, as taught by Mallory. In a similar field of endeavor Mallory discloses a method for selecting an operating mode for frame based communications. In addition Mallory discloses a time acquisition module that acquires an absolute time point from said another apparatus in the process of communication, as disclosed in [0400]; and

15. a base time setting module that sets the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying each time point at each time point being specified based on the elapsed

time measured by the base time point, as disclosed in [0406]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Sekizawa for the purpose of allowing a communications system to operate within a cable modem network, as disclosed in Mallory [0009]-[0010]. However Mallory and Sekizawa fail to explicitly disclose that the device is a printing apparatus. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention, as taught by Hattori. In a similar field of endeavor Hattori discloses an image processing device. In addition Hattori discloses that the device, with the timer and another device which manages it, as disclosed in column 18, lines 50-55, column 28, lines 60-67 and exhibited in figures 1 and 2a. In addition Sekizawa discloses a device that is connected with a network, further comprising:

16. a log recording module (12a and 30 the combination) that records a log, which represents a working status of said device and is mapped to elapsed time measured by the timer and the base time, as disclosed in column 28, lines 51 – 67 and column 29, lines 1-7.

17. wherein said network communication module transmit the log to a predetermined server 19 via the network, as disclosed in column 32, lines 10-28;

18. However Sekizawa fails to explicitly disclose, that the time acquisition module acquires the absolute time point from said predetermined server in the course of transmission.

19. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such a modification to the invention of Sekizawa, as taught by Mallory. In a similar field of endeavor Mallory discloses a method for selecting an operating mode for frame based communications. In addition Mallory discloses that the time acquisition module acquires the absolute time point from said predetermined server in the course of transmission, as disclosed in [0405]-[0406] and [0445]-[0450].

20. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Sekizawa for the purpose of allowing a communications system to operate within a cable modem network, as disclosed in Mallory [0009]-[0010]. In addition Sekizawa discloses a device that is connected with a network,

21. wherein said log recording module corrects the elapsed time by taking into account a time interval specified from absolute times acquired more than once and a measurement result of said timer corresponding to the specified time interval, and records the log, as disclosed in column 29, lines 1-7. In addition claim 1 is rejected for similar reasons as set forth above in the rejection of claim 20.

22. **Regarding claim 5**, Sekizawa, Hattori and Mallory disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1) In addition Sekizawa discloses a device wherein the network communication module transmits the log with an address dynamically allocated to said device via the network, as disclosed in column 21, lines 17-29.

23. **Regarding claim 6**, Sekizawa, Hattori and Mallory disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1) In addition Sekizawa discloses a device that is connected with a network further comprising:

24. a working status detection module 11 that outputs a continuously varying working status of said device as a discretely varying parameter value,

25. wherein said log recording module records the log at a specific time interval shorter than a minimum time interval that causes the discrete variation, as disclosed in column 22, lines 4-19.

26. **Claim 4** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekizawa (U.S. Patent 6,604,212) further in view of Mallory et al. (United States Patent Publication 2002/0006136) hereinafter referenced as Mallory, further in view of Hattori et al. (United States Patent 6,570,667) hereinafter referenced as Hattori, further in view of known prior art.

27. **Regarding claim 4**, Sekizawa, Hattori and Mallory disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1) However Sekizawa fails to disclose a device wherein a time interval of transmitting the log is longer than a time interval of recording the log. However, the examiner takes official notice of the fact that it was well known in the art to provide a device wherein a time interval of transmitting the log is longer than a time interval of recording the log.

28. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Sekizawa** by specifically providing a device

wherein a time interval of transmitting the log is longer than a time interval of recording the log for the purpose of more quickly sending out the log for the user to view.

29. **Claims 15 and 23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekizawa (U.S. Patent 6,604,212), in view of Mallory et al. (United States Patent Publication 2002/0006136) hereinafter referenced as Mallory, , further in view of Hattori et al. (United States Patent 6,570,667) hereinafter referenced as Hattori, further in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0065940), hereinafter referenced as Suzuki.

30. **Regarding claim 15**, Suzuki, Hattori and Sekizawa disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1) In addition Sekizawa discloses a device which does not contain a built-in real time clock which works even in a power OFF state of said device, but that the device receives the time from a log file, as disclosed in column 22, lines 14-18 and column 27, lines 1-9.

31. **Regarding claim 23**, Suzuki, Hattori and Sekizawa disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 20) In addition claim 23 is interpreted and rejected for the reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 20. Claim 20 describes a method, and claim 23 describes a computer readable medium implementing the method. Thus claim 23 is rejected.

Response to Arguments

78. Applicant's arguments filed 03/02/2010 have been fully considered but they are Moot on the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRENDAN MCCOMMAS whose telephone number is (571)270-3575. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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